



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Suspends Permit of Dorado Del Mar Project

San Juan, P R – Due to project failure to achieve the purpose of creating a sandy beach and causing severe erosion along the shoreline and in the nearby Dorado residential areas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has suspended the permit issued to Prime Developers, S.E. in May 2000.

A permit suspension means that the developer is prohibited from performing regulated work in areas in front of Embassy Suites Hotel, Dorado Del Mar Beach & Golf Resort, Ocean Villas and Costa Dorada sites that are considered waters of the United States.

The permit was issued to Prime Developers for the purpose of creating a sandy bathing beach for tourists by extending an existing rock jetty, constructing a new jetty, dredging and backfilling with sand 0.65 acres of sea bottom and transplanting seagrasses.

In December 2000 the Corps issued the 1st Notice on Non-Compliance against the developer for failure to construct the rock jetties in accordance with permit terms and levied an administrative penalty of \$12,500. In February 2002 a 2nd Notice on Non-Compliance and Cease and Desist Order was issued for failure to construct the rock jetties according to the authorized footprint, failure to submit compliance documents, failure to provide required mitigation and failure to remove fill material utilized to build a temporary road. Some of the issues in this Notice and Order have never been fully resolved.

The Corps staff also received complaints from adjacent property owners at Ocean Villas, Costa Dorada I and II about severe erosion occurring in the shoreline adjacent to their properties. Corps staff reviewed evidence submitted, visited the site, confirmed the situation and requested permittee to respond to these concerns.



In 2003 some measures were implemented that according to the permittee would help stabilize the beach behind the breakwater and mitigate impacts in adjacent properties. The first measure involved removal of fill materials and the second measure consisted of placement of a line of rocks in part of the shoreline in front of Ocean Villas. Both corrective measures to stabilize the beach were unsuccessful.

The notice of permit suspension letter was signed on March 4, 2008 and explains four reasons for the suspension emphasizing the project failed to achieve its purpose and has caused severe erosion along the shoreline. Interested federal and Puerto Rico government officials, adjacent property owners and others are being notified of the decision. The permittee has 10 days to respond and/or request a meeting or a hearing.

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